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Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Mt 11:48)

A warm welcome to everyone from

Fr. Maximillian McKeown, OFM Conv, Parish Priest
Rev. Simon South, Deacon

28th May 2023



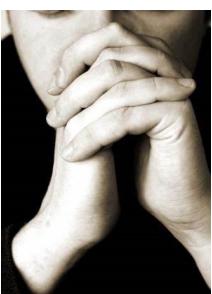
Times of Mass This Week

28 May. Sunday		8:00 AM
28 May. Sunday		10:45 AM
29 May. Monday		9:00 AM
30 May. Tuesday		9:00 AM
31 May. Wed		9.00 AM
01 June. Thurs		9.00 A.M
02 June. Friday		9:00 AM
03 June. Saturday	(Adoration will follow Mass)	9:00 AM
03 June .Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL)	6.00 P.M



Thank you for your generous donations last week, towards to running of our parish .

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED, ESPECIALLY, Guy Horton, Catherine Bowles, Richard Carey, John Kilroy, Ann Hamilton, Marcella Duckworth, Penny Setterfield, Dominique Chapious, Roy Godwin, Dorothy and Peter Van Heuven. Patricia Swain, Veronica Pagnell, Elsie Palmer, Peter McKenzie-Smith, Tom Healey, John Russell, Timothy O'Sullivan, and members of our parish, families, friends, and acquaintances.



PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Ron Peters, Sheila Miller, Audrey Hatter, Kathleen Sherwood, Monica Flint, Richard Horner, Janet Castro, Coleen, Louis & Hugo Carnell, Isabella Rose, Judith (Angela's sister) and all those confined to their homes or care homes along with Mass intentions this week.

Pentecost

Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival. For the Jewish people, along with the Feast of the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, Pentecost was one of the major feasts of the calendar, and every male Jew living within twenty miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to go to Jerusalem to participate in the feast. The word Pentecost is Greek for *pentekostes* which means "fiftieth." The feast received this name because it was celebrated fifty days after the Feast of the Passover. Another name for the Jewish Pentecost is *Shebuot* or "The Feast of Weeks" (the "week" of seven Sabbaths between Passover and Pentecost). It was originally a day of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest.

It is in this sense of fruitfulness, new harvest (new life) and fulfilment of Jesus' (Paschal) gifts to humanity, that shapes the Christian Pentecost; the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus -- culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father (at the request of His Son), on Jesus' disciples. It marks both the end and the goal of the Easter season. For us, it is the memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Catholic Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian Faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Catholic Church. Pentecost is an eternal gift and eternal promise to us all.

The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.



Just a thought

With the message of Pentecost being firmly around fruitfulness, new life and the sharing of these gifts with all, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan for the Diocese.



One of the realities of the changing shape and ministry of our Church (the Mission and teachings remain steadfast as eternal truths!) is going to be the changes brought to us as priestly numbers reduce and the implications this brings for the importance of a robust, passionate and committed Parish Community, and how we all support, encourage and affirm one another. The Church, as we read in today's Gospel, comes together under the influence of the Holy Spirit at the behest of our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the gifts that the Holy Spirit brings is the gift of the people around us—the Parish Family—our community.

In his Pastoral plan for the Diocese Bishop Richard says—

"I therefore take this opportunity to invite everyone in the Diocese – lay faithful and religious, deacons and priests – to join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints, into strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship. May they be communities where the Lord is known and loved; where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven; where daily prayer is a natural part of life; where all are welcomed and their dignity as children of God always recognized; where young people grow in deep love for the Gospel, for the sacramental life of the Church and for prayer; where all know the riches of the faith and seek to share it with others".

Bishop Richard calls on the great commission that Jesus gave all of us as His disciples, "to go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19), and the message of St Peter when he proclaims to all Christians, "but you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

The Holy Spirit comes upon all Christians at Baptism and dwells within us throughout our lives here in this world. And it is this gift of the Holy Spirit that unites us, guides us, and forms us as the followers of God's Word that is Jesus Christ.

Throughout the Church's 2000 year history, Jesus has guaranteed that He will always be with us (Mt 28:20), while we heard only last week, how Jesus also told His followers that He has not nor will He lose a single one that the Father has given to Him (Jn 18:9). But as the living body of Christ here on earth, the Church, just as we do, grows, learns, changes and looks to the future with new hope. It lives, as we too live.

With the message of Pentecost, what better time to reflect and pray with the Holy Spirit to discern what each and every one of us are being called to do for Mother Church. Jesus has called each one of us for a unique and special reason for the glory of God's Kingdom—what has He called you to do?

May the Holy Spirit fill you and guide you in love and hope in all we do together for the good of our community and the glory of His Kingdom.

Date for your Diary

Annual Parish Lunch Wednesday 14th June 12.30 pm at Simply Italian—£25 per head (including service excluding drinks) .

List and menu choices at back of church. It is always a splendid occasion and we hope as many as possible will come and celebrate the feast of St. Anthony together as a Parish Community.



There will be Scripture Group this Monday as it is a Bank Holiday.